Disinvestment of NFL, MFL and PPL

3356. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to disinvest 51 per cent of the equity holding out of 97.65 per cent in NFL, 32.74 per cent of its holding out of 58.74 per cent in MFL and 74 per cent of its holding out of 100 per cent in PPL, in favour of strategic buyers, alongwith transfer of management control;

(b) if so, what is the latest position in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the aims and objectives of this disinvestment in these fertilizer units have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Government have decided to disinvest 51% of its equity in NFL out of 97.65% and to retain 26% of equity in MFL and PPL.

(b) and (c) While 74% of Government held equity in PPL has been disinvested on 28.2.2002 alongwith its management control to M/s Zuari Maroc Phosphates Private Limited, the disinvestment process in the case of NFL and MFL is at an advanced stage.

Hazardous chemicals in UCL premises

3357. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some studies indicate that the Union Carbide premises still have hazardous chemicals and toxins;

(b) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has approached the Union Government for financial support for removal of hazardous chemicals; and

(c) if so, when Government would release the money and clear all the toxic substances from the premises of the Union Carbide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) According to the information given by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, they are in touch with the Ministry of Defence to help them in the removal of toxic wastes from the site of Union Carbide India Limited.

Government of India is also in touch with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the matter.

Interest on the funds for Bhopal gas tragedy

3358. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have Rs. 470 crore towards compensation and rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas disaster victims;

(b) how much interest Government earn annually from this capital fund;

(c) whether Government spent the interest amount on the welfare and rehabilitation of victims of the gas tragedy;

(d) what is the total amount disbursed by Government, as on date, to the victims; and

(e) how many claims have been settled as on 31st March, 2002 and how many claims are still pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As per the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Union Carbide Corporation paid a sum of US $ 470 million to the Union of India as compensation in full settlement of all civil claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. According to the directions of the Supreme Court, this money can be used only for paying compensation to the gas victims. This amount is deposited in RBI in the name of Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal.

(b) According to Reserve Bank of India, Government earned Rs. 54,01,12,704/- towards the investment made in various securities pertaining to Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal during the financial year 01.04.2001 to 31.03.2002.

(c) and (d) According to information received from the office of the Welfare Commissioner, the amount of interest earned on the deposits is also being consumed in the payment of compensation to the gas victims. As on 31.03.2002, Rs. 1522.36 crore have been awarded as compensation out of which Rs. 1511.51 crore have been disbursed to the gas victims.

(e) In all, 10,29,431 cases were filed by the claimants, out of which 10,29,254 cases have been disposed of by the end of 31st March 2002 leaving a balance of only 177 cases for disposal. Besides, under the orders of the Hon'ble